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Georgia Southern Hosts Nationally Acclaimed Diversity Experts for Conference

FEBRUARY 2, 2011

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Presentations from nationally acclaimed diversity experts, Lee Mun Wah and William E. Cross, highlight Georgia Southern University's 10th Annual Southeastern Conference on Cross-Cultural Issues in Counseling and Education. The event will be held Friday and Saturday, Feb. 11 -12, at the Coastal Georgia Center, 305 Fahm St., Savannah.

This year's program, themed "Privilege, Identity and Cross-Cultural Diversity," will address related topics, including anti-oppression/anti-racism, identity development, and cultural and ethical competence in counseling and education. Sessions, focused on the development of racial and ethnic identity as well as gender and sexual orientation, will provide a better understanding of the dynamics of multi-ethnic and multi-racial groups in the U.S.

"The research presented at this conference is relevant and well-prepared by respected professionals in this field," said Jennifer Morriss, adding that educators can earn professional development and continuing education unit credits at the conference. "Past participants have said that this conference has had a life changing effect."

At 9 a.m., Friday, Feb. 11, Lee Mun Wah's lecture, titled "Let's Get Real About Racism," will explore how dialogue on race and racism will lead to more intimate and honest conversations and cross-cultural relationships. Through his presentation, listeners will discover new ways to start conversations about diversity and learn 101 ways to become culturally competent in interpersonal and professional relationships.

A nationally acclaimed lecturer, Wah's firm "StirFry Seminars and Consulting," specializes in helping groups address issues of diversity in corporate, governmental and educational settings. His award-winning documentaries address various social and cultural issues of racism, sexism and heterosexism and his workshops and trainings have reached thousands across the nation.

William Cross Jr. will deliver Saturday's keynote address at 1:30 p.m. Titled "Multiculturalism and Difference: The Search for Commonalities Embedded in Difference," his presentation will challenge listeners to look beyond the differences between cultures to recognize the inherent similarities in social identities. A professor of counselor education at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas, Cross is considered one of America's leading theorists and researchers on black identity development. He has taught psychology, counseling and Afro-American studies in higher education for more than 40 years.

Prior to the conference, Wah will also speak on campus at a town hall-style event that will challenge the community to address the "Unfinished Conversation about Gender and Race." The event, which is free to the public, will begin at 7 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 10, in the Russell Union Theatre. Find out more at www.stirfryseminars.com.